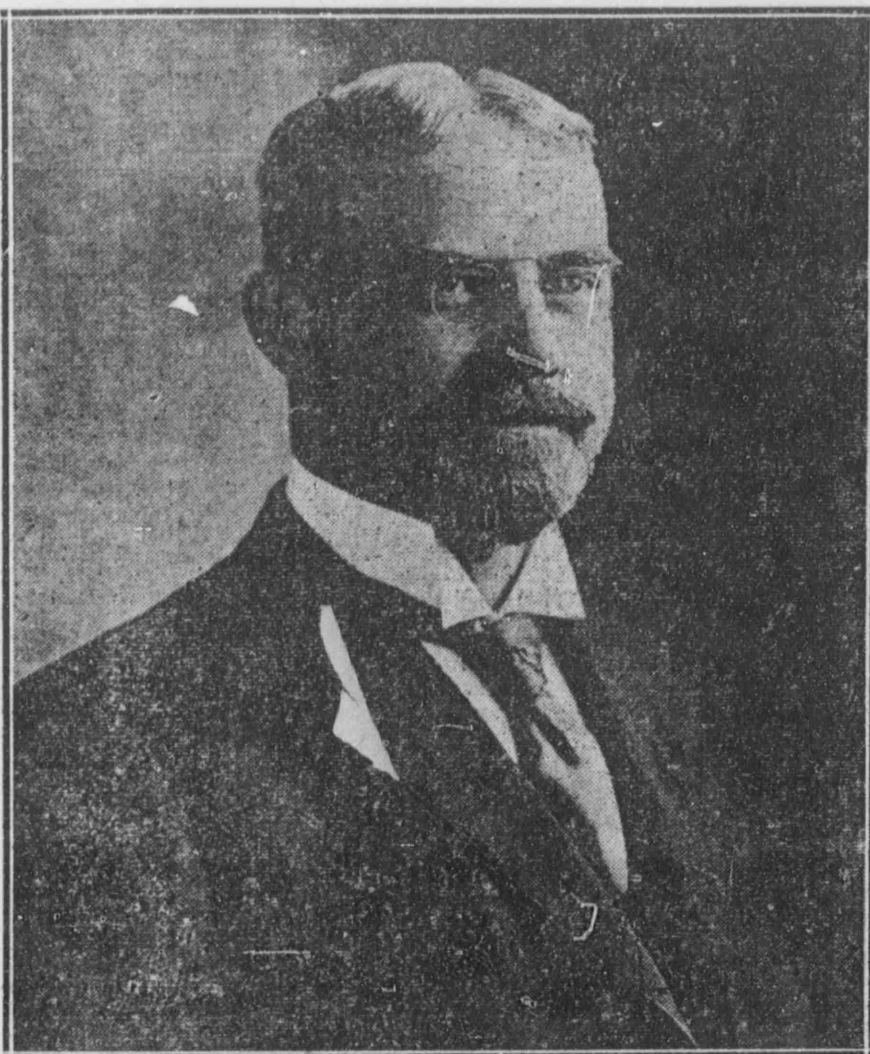


WHY WASHINGTON LEADS AS AN EDUCATIONAL CENTER

By CUNO H. RUDOLPH,

President Board of Commissioners of District of Columbia.



CUNO H. RUDOLPH.

While other American cities can boast of their wealth, their size, their commercial and manufacturing interests, Washington can truly claim to be in the lead as the educational center of our great country.

With an array of universities, colleges, schools, libraries, museums, and laboratories unexcelled in any city of the world, one lives in an atmosphere of intellectuality not to be found elsewhere. For reference and study there are accessible to any one over 2,000,000 books and pamphlets stored in the Library of Congress and in the libraries connected with the various governmental departments.

Congress, in its wisdom, nearly twenty years ago, passed the following joint resolution "to encourage the establishment and endowment of institutions of learning at the National Capital by defining the policy of the government with reference to the use of its library and scientific collections by students," which may prove of interest to The Washington Herald's numerous readers to reprint in full:

Whereas large collections illustrative of the various arts and sciences and facilitating literary and scientific research have been accumulated by the action of Congress through a series of years at the National Capital; and

Whereas it was the original purpose of the government thereby to promote research and the diffusion of knowledge, and is now the settled policy and present practice of those charged with the care of these collections specially to encourage students who devote their time to the investigation and study of any branch of knowledge by allowing to them all proper use thereof; and

Whereas it is represented that the enumeration of these facilities and the formal statement of this policy will encourage the establishment and endowment of institutions of learning at the seat of government and promote the work of education by attracting students to avail themselves of the advantages aforesaid under the direction of competent instructors; therefore

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the facilities for research and illustration in the following and any other governmental collections now existing or hereafter to be established in the city of Washington for the promotion of knowledge shall be accessible, under such rules and restrictions as the officers in charge of each collection may prescribe, subject to such authority as is now or may hereafter be permitted by law, to the scientific investigators and students of any institution of higher education now incorporated or hereafter to be incorporated under the laws of Congress or of the District of Columbia, to wit:

1. Of the Library of Congress.
2. Of the National Museum.
3. Of the Patent Office.
4. Of the Bureau of Education.
5. Of the Bureau of Ethnology.
6. Of the Army Medical Museum.
7. Of the Department of Agriculture.
8. Of the Fish Commission.
9. Of the Botanic Gardens.
10. Of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.
11. Of the Geological Survey.
12. Of the Naval Observatory.

Approved April 12, 1892.

And again, on March 3, 1901, this was supplemented by a further resolution, which reads:

That facilities for study and research in the government departments, the Library of Congress, the National Museum, the Zoological Park, the Bureau of Ethnology, the Fish Commission, the Botanic Gardens, and similar institutions hereafter established shall be afforded to scientific investigators and to duly qualified individuals, students, and graduates of institutions of learning in the several States and Territories, as well as in the District of Columbia, under such rules and restrictions as the heads of the departments and bureaus mentioned may prescribe.

That children, young people, and those of maturer years, in great numbers, not only of American birth, but representing practically every foreign country, are availing themselves of the advantages offered by our city (and by our city alone) can be readily seen by scanning the list of students enrolled in the various institutions of learning and a visit to our libraries, museums, and art gallery. Recent statistics show that Washington stands at the head of American cities in the number of scholars in private schools.

Not only are nearly all the many buildings wherein the work is carried on of modern construction and of the highest type of architecture, but they are part of or in close proximity to what is fast developing into the most beautiful city in the world, favored with a healthful and equable climate.

Washington is the place where all the blessings and advantages of modern civilization can be enjoyed to the fullest and where one can prepare himself for the struggle of life in a manner and to a degree not possible in any other city.